

Appl. No. : **09/696,841**
Filed : **October 25, 2000**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 18 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of making a key storage device comprising the steps of:

providing a body comprising an article of material suitable for use in an exposed position in an outdoor landscape;

cutting aan elongate slot in the body, the slot having first and second ends, an opening and a terminal side generally opposite the opening, the terminal side being generally arcuate from the first end to the second end, the slot being sized and adapted to accommodate a key therewithin between the terminal side and the opening; and

forming a closing strip adapted to substantially close said slot; and
releasably applying the closing strip in or adjacent the slot so as to form a key compartment between the slot terminal side and the strip, the compartment being sized and adapted to accommodate a key therewithin.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as in Claim 12, further comprising the steps of selecting a body having a substantially smooth undersurface, and forming said slot on the undersurface, and arranging the body so that the slot opening is generally downward facing.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as in Claim 12, further comprising the step of selecting a desirable natural hard rock as said body.

15. (Original) A method as in Claim 12, wherein said strip is a pliable material adapted to fit in the slot to substantially seal the slot.

16-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method as in Claim 12, wherein cutting the slot comprises grinding away a portion of the body.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as in Claim 19, wherein cutting the slot comprises advancing a circular rotating grinder blade into the body to a predetermined depth.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as in Claim 20, wherein the depth of the slot is between about $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 inches.

Appl. No. : **09/696,841**
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22. (Previously Presented) A method as in Claim 21, wherein the depth of the slot is between about 1 and 1½ inches.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as in Claim 12, wherein the body comprises a hard block of material, and cutting the slot comprises grinding away a portion of the hard block of material.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as in Claim 23, wherein the hard block of material comprises natural material.

25. (Withdrawn) A method as in Claim 23, wherein the hard block of material comprises a man-made block.

Please add the following new claims:

26. (New) A method of storing a key, comprising
 providing a key storage device according to the method of Claim 12;
 providing a key
 placing the key in the slot; and
 placing the closing strip in or adjacent the slot so that the key is enclosed within the slot.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26 additionally comprising positioning the body so that a side of the body comprising the slot is hidden from view.

28. (New) A method of making an article storage device, comprising:
 providing a body comprising an article of material suitable for use in an exposed position in an outdoor landscape;
 cutting away a portion of the body so as to form an elongate slot in the body, the slot having a slot width;
 providing an article having an article width that is less than or equal to the slot width;
 providing a closing strip adapted to close at least a portion of the slot;
 placing the article into the slot in a manner so that the article may be removed from the slot; and
 releasably placing the closing strip in or adjacent the slot so as to block the article from exiting the slot so long as the closing strip is in place.

Appl. No. : **09/696,841**
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29. (New) The method of Claim 28 additionally comprising removing the closing strip, removing the article, and replacing the closing strip.
30. (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the article is substantially flat.
31. (New) The method of Claim 30, wherein the article comprises a key.
32. (New) The method of Claim 31, wherein cutting away a portion of the body so as to form a slot in the body comprises advancing a circular rotating grinder blade into the body so that the slot has an elongate opening, and a terminal side of the slot opposite the opening is substantially arcuate about a radius of curvature substantially the same as a radius of curvature of the grinder blade.
33. (New) The method of Claim 31, wherein the slot has an elongate opening, and additionally comprising arranging the body so that the slot opening is generally downwardly facing.
34. (New) The method of Claim 30, wherein the article comprises money.